

Board Meeting
July 30, 2007

ESTABLISH A MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE, COLLEGE OF APPLIED
HEALTH SCIENCES, URBANA

Action: Establish a Master of Public Health Degree, College of Applied Health Sciences, Urbana

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Applied Health Sciences to establish a Master of Public Health degree.

The establishment of the Master of Public Health degree (MPH) will provide students with a general understanding of the five core domains of public health (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Services Administration, and Social and Behavioral Sciences). In addition, they will develop in-depth expertise and significant practical experience in one area of public health, either Health Policy and Administration or Prevention and Chronic Disease Risk Reduction. Throughout the MPH core courses, the two specializations, the internship and research experiences, the curriculum is designed to stress the need to examine issues related to the special public health needs of rural populations. The MPH degree will complement the existing Master of Science degree in Public Health which is designed to prepare students for careers in academia, and/or research rather than public health practice.

The proposed degree adds a professionally focused graduate degree designed to meet the needs of students who intend to enter a career in the area of public health practice and for students who intend to matriculate into a doctoral program. Furthermore, the Urbana program will be the first accredited program located in central or southern Illinois and the only program that identifies the public health needs of rural populations as a key element of its curriculum.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes*, *The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.